SUPERMAN-DC NATIONAL COMICS
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NO. 41

In this issue: DETAILS and ENTRY BLANK for Giant 5000 PRIZE CONTEST!

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BIG TOWN

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BIG TOWN

IT LAY WITHIN SIGHT OF THE SKYSCRAPERS OF **BIG TOWN** -- YET NO ONE EVEN SUSPECTED ITS EXISTENCE ! BUILT IN UTTER SECRECY, THE SECLUDED MANSION HOUSED AN AMAZING TREASURE ! WHEN STEVE WILSON CAME UPON THE ONE CLUE THAT BETRAYED THE MANSION'S PRESENCE, THE ACE NEWSMAN WAS DRAWN INTO A TANGLED WEB FROM WHICH THERE WAS NO APPARENT ESCAPE !

MYSTERY OF THE INVISIBLE MANSION!

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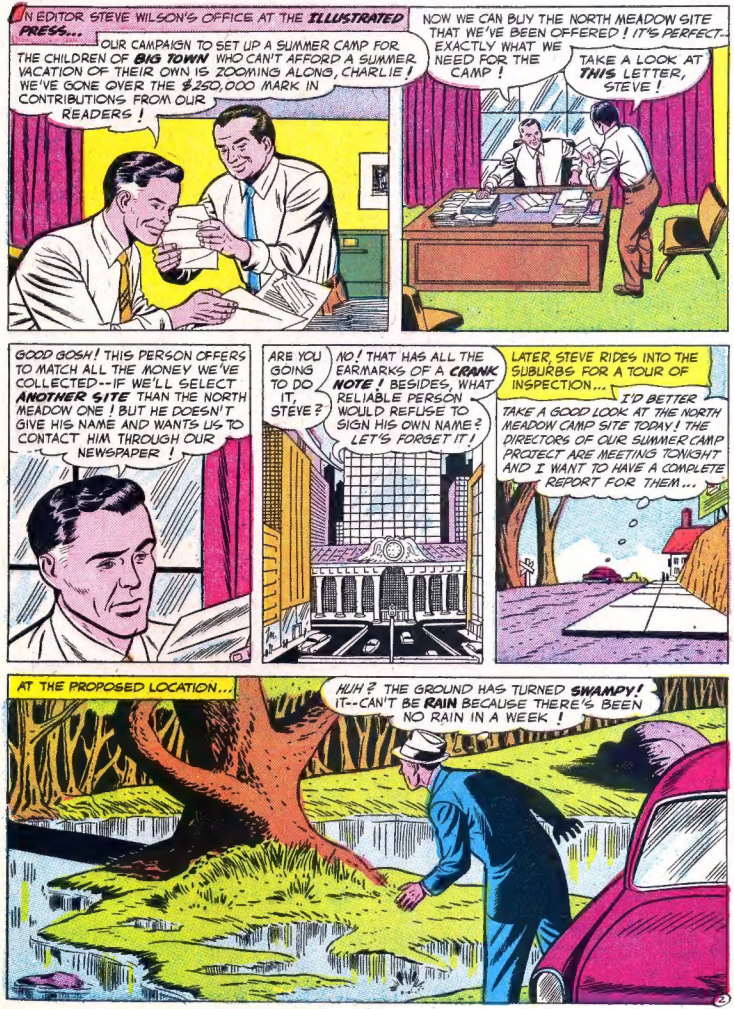
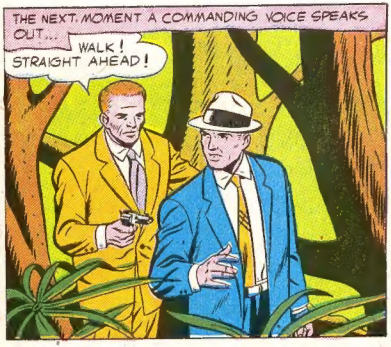
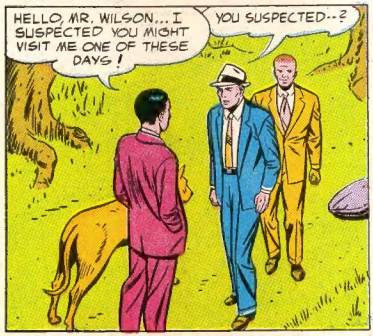
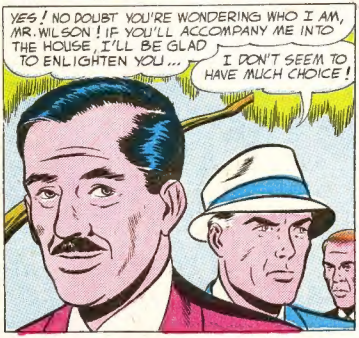

IN EDITOR STEVE WILSON'S OFFICE AT THE ILLUSTRATED PRESS...
OUR CAMPAIGN TO SET UP A SUMMER CAMP FOR THE CHILDREN OF BIG TOWN WHO CAN'T AFFORD A SUMMER VACATION OF THEIR OWN IS ZOOMING ALONG, CHARLIE! WE'VE GONE OVER THE $250,000 MARK IN CONTRIBUTIONS FROM OUR READERS!
NOW WE CAN BUY THE NORTH MEADOW SITE THAT WE'VE BEEN OFFERED! IT'S PERFECT--EXACTLY WHAT WE NEED FOR THE CAMP!
TAKE A LOOK AT THIS LETTER, STEVE!
GOOD GOSH! THIS PERSON OFFERS TO MATCH ALL THE MONEY WE'VE COLLECTED--IF WE'LL SELECT ANOTHER SITE THAN THE NORTH MEADOW ONE! BUT HE DOESN'T GIVE HIS NAME AND WANTS US TO CONTACT HIM THROUGH OUR NEWSPAPER!
ARE YOU GOING TO DO IT, STEVE?
NO! THAT HAS ALL THE EARMARKS OF A CRANK NOTE! BESIDES, WHAT RELIABLE PERSON WOULD REFUSE TO SIGN HIS OWN NAME? LET'S FORGET IT!
LATER, STEVE RIDES INTO THE SUBURBS FOR A TOUR OF INSPECTION...
I'D BETTER TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT THE NORTH MEADOW CAMP SITE TODAY! THE DIRECTORS OF OUR SUMMER CAMP PROJECT ARE MEETING TONIGHT AND I WANT TO HAVE A COMPLETE REPORT FOR THEM...
AT THE PROPOSED LOCATION...
HUH? THE GROUND HAS TURNED SWAMPY! IT--CAN'T BE RAIN BECAUSE THERE'S BEEN NO RAIN IN A WEEK!

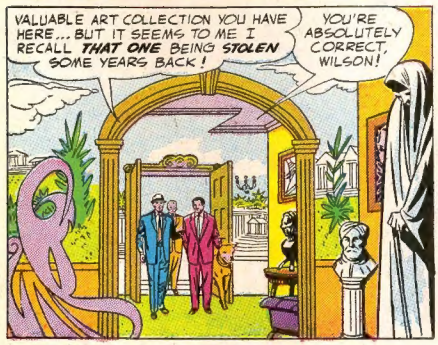
THIS JUST ABOUT RULES OUT THE SITE! IT WOULD COST TOO MUCH TO DRAIN AND REFILL ALL THIS LAND! WE'LL HAVE TO LOOK FOR ANOTHER AREA--WHAT'S THAT?
A SECTION OF GARDEN HOSE! IT'S ALMOST AS IF SOMEONE WATERED DOWN THIS AREA ON PURPOSE! BUT WHY WOULD ANYONE WANT TO DO THAT?
HIS CURIOSITY AROUSED, THE NEWSMAN PROBES DEEPER INTO THE UNFAMILIAR TERRAIN..
THE ONLY PLACE AROUND HERE WHERE ANYONE COULD BE LIVING--OR HIDING--IS IN THAT WOODS! THERE'S NO SIGN OF ANY FOOTSTEPS COMING FROM THERE... NO SIGN OF ANY HABITATION... YET SOMEHOW I'VE GOT A FEELING...
FOLLOWING A NEWSPAPERMAN'S HUNCH, STEVE PLUNGES DEEP INTO THE DENSE WOODS...
A PRINT OF A MAN'S FOOT! THERE IS SOMETHING STRANGE GOING ON! NO PRINTS OUT THERE, BUT AS SOON AS I COME IN HERE, I SEE ONE! I'LL FOLLOW THE SINGLE PRINT'S DIRECTION!
ON AN UNSEEN TRAIL, STEVE GRIMLY PUSHES AHEAD...
THIS THICKLY WOODED AREA IS MAKING IT TOUGH TO MOVE FORWARD IN THE SAME DIRECTION! HARD TO IMAGINE ANYONE LIVING AROUND HERE!
SUDDENLY, AS HE COMES TO THE EDGE OF A CLEARING...
A MANSION--CLEVERLY HIDDEN IN THE WOODS!

AS STEVE PULLS BACK INTO THE THICKET...
I'D BETTER TRY TO AVOID BEING SEEN... UNTIL I CAN TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT THIS SET-UP AND TRY TO MAKE SOME SENSE OUT OF IT! WHO CAN THAT MAN BE? WHY DOES HE LIVE HERE?


THE NEXT MOMENT A COMMANDING VOICE SPEAKS OUT...
WALK! STRAIGHT AHEAD!


HELLO, MR. WILSON... I SUSPECTED YOU MIGHT VISIT ME ONE OF THESE DAYS!
YOU SUSPECTED--?


YES! NO DOUBT YOU'RE WONDERING WHO I AM, MR. WILSON! IF YOU'LL ACCOMPANY ME INTO THE HOUSE, I'LL BE GLAD TO ENLIGHTEN YOU...
I DON'T SEEM TO HAVE MUCH CHOICE!


VALUABLE ART COLLECTION YOU HAVE HERE... BUT IT SEEMS TO ME I RECALL THAT ONE BEING STOLEN SOME YEARS BACK!
YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY CORRECT, WILSON!

ALL MY PRICELESS POSSESSIONS WERE STOLEN! INDEED, IT WAS I WHO STOLE THEM!
WH-WHAT?!

YES, I AM WHAT IS COMMONLY KNOWN AS A CROOK! MY NAME DOESN'T MATTER, BECAUSE I HAVE ALWAYS SHUNNED NOTORIETY, BUT TO SATISFY YOUR CURIOSITY, IT IS MATSON MINOR...
"YEARS AGO, WHEN I ENTERED ON MY CRIMINAL CAREER, I WAS ATTRACTED TO VALUABLE ART OBJECTS..."
THE GOLD ALONE IN THIS FIGURE MUST BE WORTH $10,000! BUT I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO MELT IT DOWN--IT'S TOO BEAUTIFUL!
"GRADUALLY, I ACCUMULATED A SUPERB COLLECTION OF ART TREASURES! IN MY HIDE-OUT, THEY SEEMED OUT OF PLACE..."
I MUST FIND A SUITABLE HOUSE FOR MY VALUABLE COLLECTION--A HOUSE CLOSE ENOUGH TO BIG TOWN SO THAT I CAN CONTINUE IN MY--AH--CAREER! YET SECLUDED FOR ABSOLUTE PRIVACY...
"WHEN I FOUND THIS SITE, I KNEW I HAD THE IDEAL LOCATION..."
NO ONE WILL DREAM THAT A DWELLING EXISTS HERE IN THESE DENSE, TANGLED WOODS! BUT HERE'S WHERE I'M GOING TO BUILD MY HOUSE--ON THIS VERY SPOT!
"WITH MY USUAL THOROUGHNESS, I TOOK PRECAUTIONS FOR SAFETY AND PRIVACY..."
ANY FOOTPRINTS THAT WE MAKE LEADING TO OUR WOODS MUST ALWAYS BE WIPED OUT IMMEDIATELY! WE DON'T WANT TO ATTRACT ANY ATTENTION!
"SINCE I NEVER VENTURE FORTH ANY MORE, FOOD IS TRANSPORTED TO US BY HELICOPTER IN THE DEAD OF NIGHT!"
1:30 A.M.! THE COPTER IS RIGHT ON TIME! GO UP TO THE ROOF AND COLLECT THE FOOD PACKAGES!
THRUMM! THRUMM!

"SO YOU SEE, I COULD NOT TOLERATE ANYTHING LIKE A **CHILDREN'S CAMP** ON THE PROPERTY ADJOINING MINE..."

WHAT DO YOU INTEND TO DO WITH ME?

VIOLENCE ISN'T IN MY LINE, WILSON! YOU WON'T BE HARMED! YOU'LL JUST STAY HERE... AS MY **PERMANENT GUEST!**

LATER, AFTER STEVE IS LEFT ALONE IN THE LIVING ROOM...

I'VE GOT TO TRY TO GET OUT OF HERE! THERE MUST BE SOME WAY! HOW ABOUT THE WINDOWS BEHIND THOSE DRAPES?

BARRED! NO ESCAPE THIS WAY...AND I SAW MINOR'S HENCHMAN GO OUT EARLIER AND LOCK ALL THE DOORS BEHIND HIM! THIS ISN'T GOING TO BE EASY...

GRIMLY, THE ACE NEWSHAWK BEARS DOWN ON THE PROBLEM FACING HIM...

I'VE GOT AN IDEA... IT'S ALMOST 1:30 NOW...AND THAT MEANS THE **HELICOPTER** IS DUE! IF ONLY I CAN GET **UP ON THE ROOF!** BUT TO DO THAT I MUST STEAL PAST MINOR'S **DOG...**

IN A DRESSING ROOM, MOMENTS LATER...

IF WHAT I'VE HEARD ABOUT DOGS IS TRUE, THEY RELY MAINLY ON THEIR SENSE OF SMELL TO RECOGNIZE PEOPLE--IN THE DARKNESS OF NIGHT! AND IF I WEAR **MINOR'S CLOTHES,** MY SCENT OUGHT TO BE **MINOR'S!**

LIGHTS ARE SWITCHED OFF, AS STEVE SLOWLY ADVANCES TOWARD THE DOG-GUARDED STAIRCASE...

WILL IT WORK? THE DOG'S STARTING TO STIR...

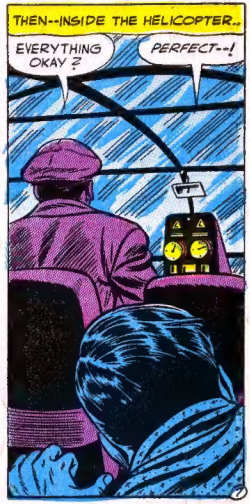
HIS TAIL'S WAGGING! I'M MAKING IT--HE THINK I'M HIS MASTER!
CREAK! CREAK!

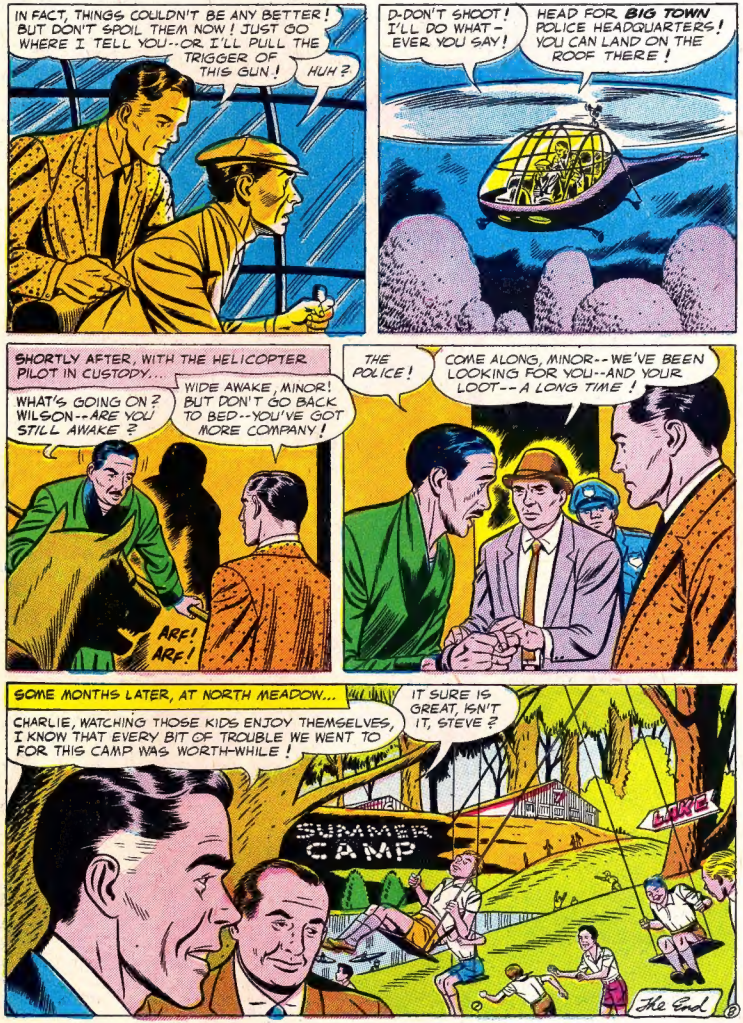
SECONDS LATER, STEVE OPENS THE DOOR LEADING TO THE ROOF...
JUST IN TIME! THAT'S THE HELICOPTER!
THRUMM! THRUMM!

THAT FELLOW'S BEING LOWERED BY THAT ROPE--ALONG WITH THE BUNDLE OF SUPPLIES! AFTER HE SETS DOWN THE PACKAGE, HE'LL GET PULLED UP AGAIN--UNLESS SOMEONE TAKES HIS PLACE ...

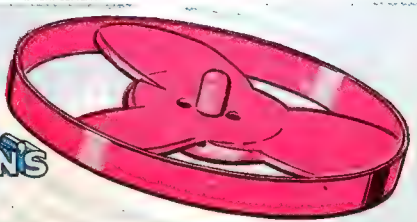
WAITING FOR THE RIGHT MOMENT, STEVE MAKES HIS MOVE...
HEY--!
THE PILOT WON'T HEAR ANYTHING DOWN HERE--NOT WITH THE NOISE FROM THAT 'EGG-BEATER' GOING ON!
THRUMMM!

AS HIS FOE SINKS TO THE GROUND, KAYOED, STEVE GRABS THE ROPE ...
GOING UP! A YANK ON THE ROPE IS THE SIGNAL TO RAISE IT, JUST AS I FIGURED!


THEN--INSIDE THE HELICOPTER..
EVERYTHING OKAY?
PERFECT--!


IN FACT, THINGS COULDN'T BE ANY BETTER! BUT DON'T SPOIL THEM NOW! JUST GO WHERE I TELL YOU--OR I'LL PULL THE TRIGGER OF THIS GUN!
HUH?
D-DON'T SHOOT! I'LL DO WHAT-- EVER YOU SAY!
HEAD FOR BIG TOWN POLICE HEADQUARTERS! YOU CAN LAND ON THE ROOF THERE!
SHORTLY AFTER, WITH THE HELICOPTER PILOT IN CUSTODY...
WHAT'S GOING ON? WILSON--ARE YOU STILL AWAKE?
WIDE AWAKE, MINOR! BUT DON'T GO BACK TO BED--YOU'VE GOT MORE COMPANY!
ARF! ARF!
THE POLICE!
COME ALONG, MINOR--WE'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU--AND YOUR LOOT--A LONG TIME!
SOME MONTHS LATER, AT NORTH MEADOW...
CHARLIE, WATCHING THOSE KIDS ENJOY THEMSELVES, I KNOW THAT EVERY BIT OF TROUBLE WE WENT TO FOR THIS CAMP WAS WORTH-WHILE!
IT SURE IS GREAT, ISN'T IT, STEVE?
SUMMER CAMP
LAKE
The End

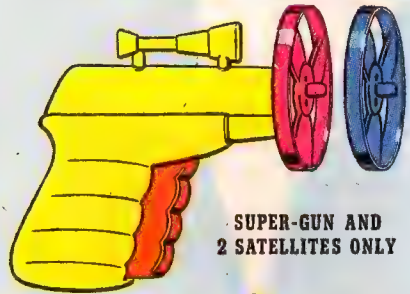
KIDS! LAUNCH SATELLITES IN YOUR OWN BACK YARD WITH



SUPERMAN'S

SPACE SATELLITE

LAUNCHER SET!



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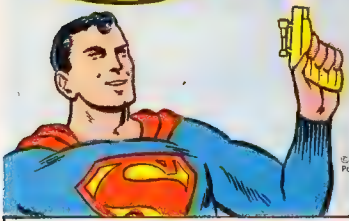

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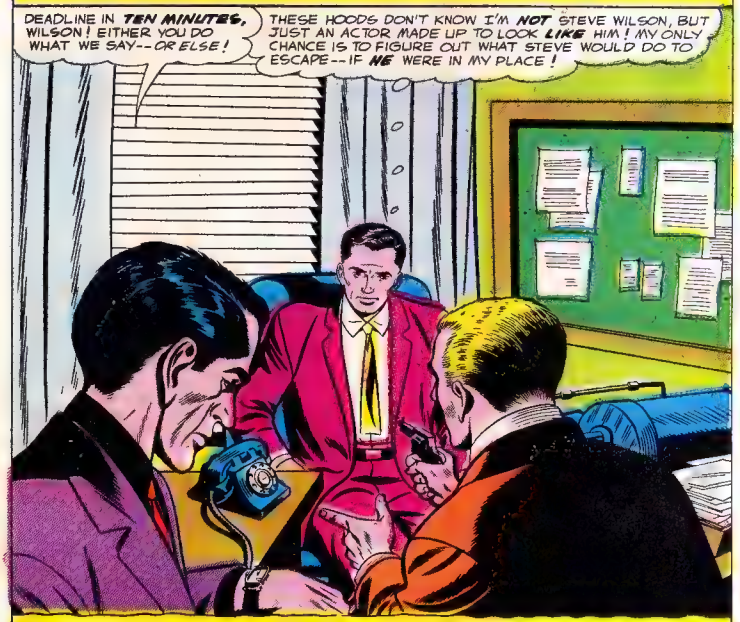
BIG TOWN


DEADLINE IN TEN MINUTES, WILSON! EITHER YOU DO WHAT WE SAY--OR ELSE!
THESE HOODS DON'T KNOW I'M NOT STEVE WILSON, BUT JUST AN ACTOR MADE UP TO LOOK LIKE HIM! MY ONLY CHANCE IS TO FIGURE OUT WHAT STEVE WOULD DO TO ESCAPE--IF HE WERE IN MY PLACE!

UNKNOWN ACTOR HARDING AMES' BIG OPPORTUNITY CAME WHEN A CHANCE RESEMBLANCE BETWEEN HIM AND BIG TOWN'S FAMED NEWSPAPER EDITOR STEVE WILSON SECURED FOR HIM THE PRIZE ROLE IN A DRAMATIC TELEVISION PROGRAM! AMES HAD TO IMPERSONATE STEVE WILSON--BUT HE NEVER DREAMED THAT HE WOULD FIND HIMSELF DOING SO IN ORDER TO SAVE HIS OWN LIFE!

STEVE WILSON'S LAST DEADLINE!

AS A HIGH-RATING TELEVISION SHOW DRAWS TO A CLOSE...

...AND NEXT WEEK "BIG TOWN HIGH-LIGHTS"--WHICH HAS ALREADY SHOWN YOU REAL-LIFE DRAMAS OF THE CITY'S POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS--WILL TAKE YOU INTO THE HEART OF A GREAT NEWSPAPER--THE ILLUSTRATED PRESS! FOR WEEKS NOW ONE OF OUR ACTORS...

...HARDING AMES HAS BEEN STUDYING EDITOR STEVE WILSON WHOM HE WILL PLAY IN THE FORTHCOMING PRODUCTION! AMES HAS SPENT HOURS EACH DAY WITH MR. WILSON--WATCHING THE FAMOUS NEWSMAN'S EVERY GESTURE AND MANNER OF SPEECH...

B-T-V

HIS PORTRAYAL OF MR. WILSON PROMISES TO MAKE NEXT WEEK'S "BIG TOWN HIGH-LIGHTS" A MEMORABLE ONE! DON'T MISS IT!

NEXT WEEK--MY BIG CHANCE TO MAKE GOOD...

FOR YEARS I'VE WAITED FOR THIS BREAK! SURE, THEY PICKED ME FOR THE ROLE BECAUSE OF MY RESEMBLANCE TO STEVE WILSON! BUT I CAN BECOME A STAR OVERNIGHT--BY GIVING AN OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE!

BUT I'VE GOT TO MAKE SURE THAT MY IMPERSONATION OF MR. WILSON IS PERFECT! AND THAT'S WHY I'M GOING TO DO WHAT I'VE DECIDED ON...

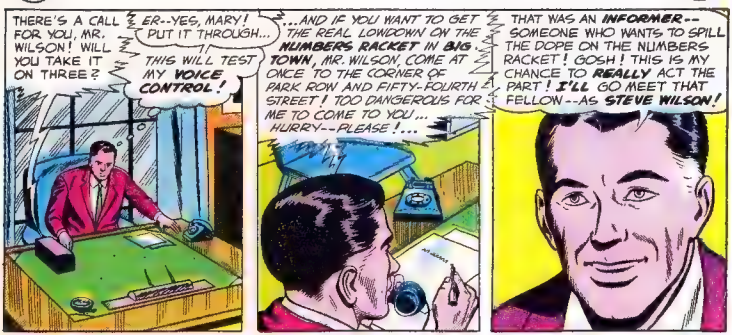
TOMORROW!

EARLY THE NEXT MORNING IN STEVE WILSON'S OFFICE...

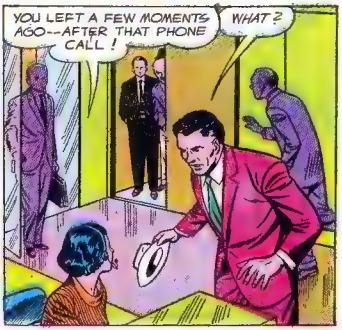
SO FAR SO GOOD! I GOT HERE AHEAD OF MR. WILSON--AND EVERYONE SAID HELLO TO ME JUST AS IF I REALLY WERE STEVE WILSON!

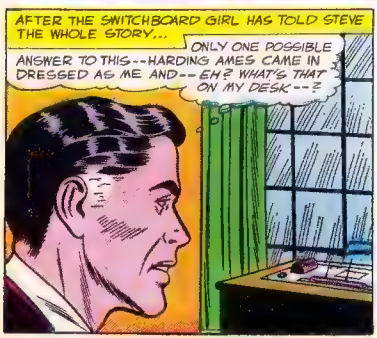
HIS INTERCOM'S BUZZING! I'LL ANSWER IT!

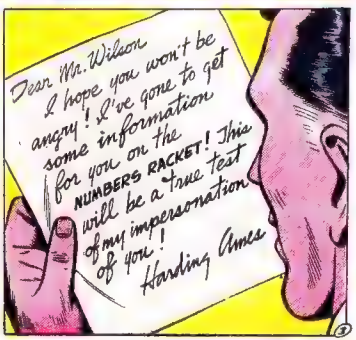
BZZZZ!

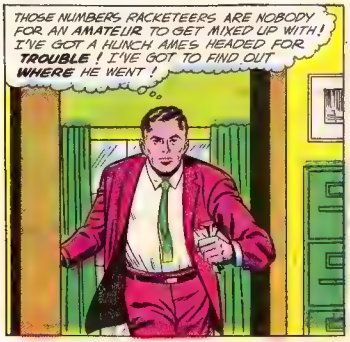

THERE'S A CALL FOR YOU, MR. WILSON! WILL YOU TAKE IT ON THREE?
ER--YES, MARY! PUT IT THROUGH...
THIS WILL TEST MY VOICE CONTROL!
..AND IF YOU WANT TO GET THE REAL LOWDOWN ON THE NUMBERS RACKET IN BIG TOWN, MR. WILSON, COME AT ONCE TO THE CORNER OF PARK ROW AND FIFTY-FOURTH STREET! TOO DANGEROUS FOR ME TO COME TO YOU... HURRY--PLEASE!...
THAT WAS AN INFORMER--SOMEONE WHO WANTS TO SPILL THE DOPE ON THE NUMBERS RACKET! GOSH! THIS IS MY CHANCE TO REALLY ACT THE PART! I'LL GO MEET THAT FELLOW--AS STEVE WILSON!

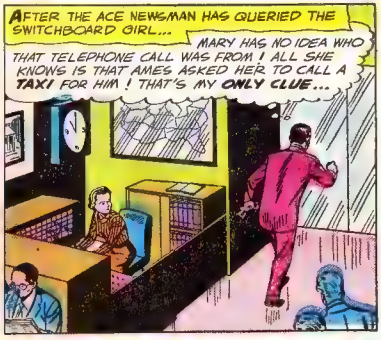
SOON AFTER, AS THE REAL STEVE WILSON MAKES HIS APPEARANCE...
B-BACK SO SOON, MR. WILSON?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, MARY?

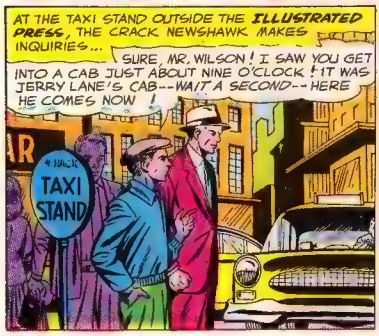

YOU LEFT A FEW MOMENTS AGO--AFTER THAT PHONE CALL!
WHAT?


AFTER THE SWITCHBOARD GIRL HAS TOLD STEVE THE WHOLE STORY...
ONLY ONE POSSIBLE ANSWER TO THIS--HARDING AMES CAME IN DRESSED AS ME AND--EH? WHAT'S THAT ON MY DESK--?

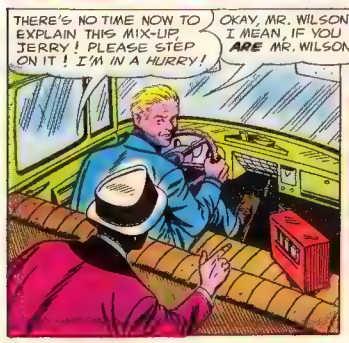

Dear Mr. Wilson
I hope you won't be angry! I've gone to get some information for you on the NUMBERS RACKET! This will be a true test of my impersonation of you!
Harding Ames

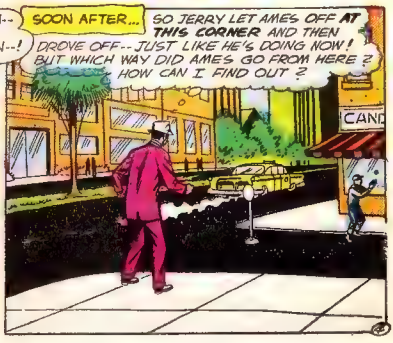

THOSE NUMBERS RACKETEERS ARE NOBODY FOR AN AMATEUR TO GET MIXED UP WITH! I'VE GOT A HUNCH AMES HEADED FOR TROUBLE! I'VE GOT TO FIND OUT WHERE HE WENT!


AFTER THE ACE NEWSMAN HAS QUERIED THE SWITCHBOARD GIRL...
MARY HAS NO IDEA WHO THAT TELEPHONE CALL WAS FROM! ALL SHE KNOWS IS THAT AMES ASKED HER TO CALL A TAXI FOR HIM! THAT'S MY ONLY CLUE...


AT THE TAXI STAND OUTSIDE THE ILLUSTRATED PRESS, THE CRACK NEWSHAWK MAKES INQUIRIES...
SURE, MR. WILSON! I SAW YOU GET INTO A CAB JUST ABOUT NINE O'CLOCK! IT WAS JERRY LANE'S CAB--WAIT A SECOND--HERE HE COMES NOW!
TAXI STAND

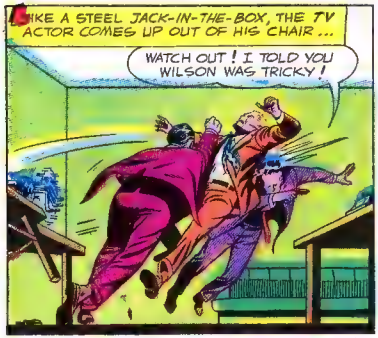
MOMENTS LATER...
ALL RIGHT, JERRY! I KNOW YOU JUST TOOK ME SOMEWHERE--AND DROPPED ME OFF! ALL I WANT YOU TO DO IS TAKE ME TO THE EXACT SAME PLACE AGAIN!
Y-YES, SIR!
TAXI

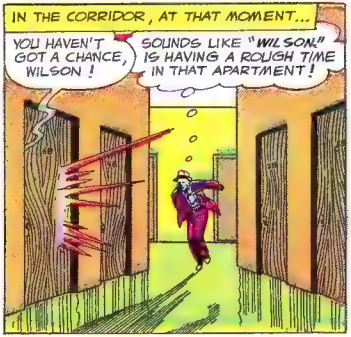

THERE'S NO TIME NOW TO EXPLAIN THIS MIX-UP JERRY! PLEASE STEP ON IT! I'M IN A HURRY!
OKAY, MR. WILSON--I MEAN, IF YOU ARE MR. WILSON--!

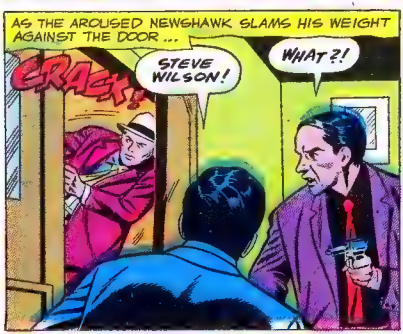

SOON AFTER...
SO JERRY LET AMES OFF AT THIS CORNER AND THEN DROVE OFF--JUST LIKE HE'S DOING NOW! BUT WHICH WAY DID AMES GO FROM HERE? HOW CAN I FIND OUT?

AS THE VETERAN NEWSPAPERMAN SEEKS TO PICK UP THE TRAIL...
THOSE KIDS -- THEY MAY HAVE NOTICED AMES WHEN HE GOT OUT OF THE CAB! I'LL ASK THEM...
SOMEONE WHO LOOKED LIKE YOU, MISTER? YES, I SAW HIM -- HE WENT AWAY WITH TWO OTHER MEN!
"THE TWO MEN WALKED ON EITHER SIDE OF THE ONE WHO LOOKED LIKE YOU, VERY CLOSE TO HIM..."
DON'T LOOK BACK AN' DON'T MAKE ANY NOISE, WILSON!
JUST KEEP WALKIN' NATURAL, SEE? AN' DON'T TRY ANY TRICKS!
AND THEY WENT TOWARD THAT BUILDING...
THANKS, BOYS!
MY HUNCH WAS RIGHT! FROM WHAT THESE BOYS SAW, AMES IS IN TROUBLE -- BAD TROUBLE!
SOON AFTER, FROM THE PHONE BOOTH IN THE CORNER STORE, STEVE CONTACTS HIS FRIEND POLICE LT. GREGGORY...
--AND THEY WENT INTO A BIG BUILDING ON PARK ROW! THERE ARE HUNDREDS OF APARTMENTS AND SO FAR I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO GET ANY CLUE TO WHICH ONE AMES IS IN!
WE'LL BE RIGHT THERE, STEVE!
MEANWHILE, INSIDE ONE OF THE BUILDING'S APARTMENTS...
YOU GOT TEN MINUTES TO MAKE UP YOUR MIND, WILSON! EITHER YOU PHONE YOUR PAPER AND KILL THAT EXPOSÉ ON THE NUMBERS RACKET STARTIN' IN TOMORROW'S EDITION -- OR YOU'RE A DEAD PIGEON!

YOU--YOU TRICKED ME INTO COMING HERE !
SURE, AND YOU FELL FOR IT ! BUT STOP STALLING ! ONLY NINE MINUTES LEFT NOW ...
THIS IS ONE DEADLINE YOU BETTER NOT MISS, WILSON ! WE'RE GIVING YOU YOUR CHANCE -- PICK UP THAT PHONE --!
THEY'LL NEVER LET ME GET OUT OF HERE ALIVE -- EVEN IF I DO WHAT THEY SAY !
I GOT INTO THIS MESS BY ACTING LIKE STEVE WILSON ! MAYBE I CAN GET OUT OF IT THE WAY HE WOULD -- BY OUTWITTING THESE RACKETEERS ! WHAT WOULD HE DO IN MY SHOES ?
AS THE YOUNG ACTOR GRIMLY CASTS HIS EYES ABOUT HIM...
THIS MIMEOGRAPH MACHINE -- THAT THESE HOODS MUST USE IN THEIR NUMBERS RACKET -- ITS ELECTRIC PLUG IS ONLY HALFWAY OUT OF THE SOCKET ! THAT GIVES ME AN IDEA ...
FOUR MINUTES...
GOT TO PUSH THAT PLUG IN WITH MY FOOT NOW -- WHILE HIS GUN IS OVER THE MIMEOGRAPH HANDLE !
THE NEXT MOMENT...
HEY -- MY GUN !
DID IT ! NOW AT LEAST I'LL HAVE A FIGHTING CHANCE -- AND THAT'S ALL STEVE WILSON EVER ASKS FOR !


LIKE A STEEL JACK-IN-THE-BOX, THE TV ACTOR COMES UP OUT OF HIS CHAIR ...
WATCH OUT! I TOLD YOU WILSON WAS TRICKY!


IN THE CORRIDOR, AT THAT MOMENT...
YOU HAVEN'T GOT A CHANCE, WILSON!
SOUNDS LIKE "WILSON" IS HAVING A ROUGH TIME IN THAT APARTMENT!


AS THE AROUSED NEWSHAWK SLAMS HIS WEIGHT AGAINST THE DOOR ...
CRACK!
STEVE WILSON!
WHAT?!

ANOTHER STEVE WILSON!?
HIS STUNNED SURPRISE AT SEEING TWO STEVE WILSONS...

...GIVES ME THE BREAK I NEED TO STRIKE FIRST!

WHEN LT. GREGGORY AND HIS MEN REACH THE PREMISES...
WE'VE HAD THE NET OUT FOR THESE GANGSTERS, STEVE! THANKS--TO YOU AND MR. AMES--FOR HANDING THEM OVER TO US ON A PLATTER!
IT'LL MAKE THE PERFECT ENDING TO OUR NUMBERS RACKET EXPOSÉ, LT. GREGGORY!

AFTERWARD, AT STEVE'S APARTMENT...
I GUESS I MADE AN AWFUL FOOL OF MYSELF, STEVE... ALMOST GOT US BOTH FINISHED OFF!
FORGET IT, AMES! HAPPENS TO ALL OF US FROM TIME TO TIME! BESIDES, YOUR MOTIVE WAS HONEST!
YOU ONLY WANTED TO PERFECT YOUR ROLE OF STEVE WILSON! AND ON THAT SCORE, I HAVE A LITTLE ADVICE! FIRST, I WOULD NOT HAVE RESPONDED TO THAT PHONE CALL ALONE! THAT WAS A MISTAKE!
SECOND, I WOULD HAVE LEFT A MESSAGE SAYING EXACTLY WHERE I WAS GOING...
ILLUSTRATED PRESS
NUMBERS RACKET EXPOSED
A WEEK LATER, AFTER THE TELECAST OF "BIG TOWN HIGHLIGHTS"...
STEVE, I'VE MADE IT! ALL THE PAPERS GAVE ME RAVE REVIEWS FOR MY IMPERSONATION OF YOU ON THE SHOW LAST NIGHT!
YOU WERE GREAT, AMES--PERFECT-- AND I OUGHT TO KNOW!
The End
8

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"SO when Daddy told me I'd have to be in by 12 or no dance, that was absolutely the end." Mary Lou finished the tale of woe that had occupied a slow three-blocks walk from school, and looked dismally at Janie. "Maybe Muggsie won't even want to take me now!"

"Sure he will," said Janie. "But honestly, Mary Lou, this is sure kid stuff. And here we are fifteen! I'll probably be in the same boat when Dad and Mother get together about it. Sometimes, I wonder—were parents ever kids themselves?"

"The whole thing is, they're *bossy!*" Mary Lou burst out. "Sometimes my father acts like a—a dictator or something!"

"Yeah, but look at the way he and your mother fixed up the backyard for our barbecue," reminded Janie.

"Well, yes," Mary Lou backed down a little. "And he was really marvelous about getting me a formal . . ."

"Who's marvelous? Anybody in your life but me?" came a voice from behind them.

"Muggsie!" squealed Mary Lou. "I thought you were at football practice."

"Called off," said Muggsie. "What have you two been yakking about for three blocks?"

"Girl talk," supplied Janie, helpfully, while Mary Lou searched for words.

"For Pete's sake!" began Muggsie, baffled.

Mary Lou interrupted. "Muggsie, do your parents ever lay down the law about things?"

"Oh, that!" Muggsie was relieved. "Sure. But I'm two years older than you and I've got news for you. After a while you get used to it. And sometimes—they've even got a point."

The girls sighed.

"I wish somebody would explain the point—if any—of having to get home from a big dance at 12 o'clock," pouted Mary Lou.

"So that's it!" Muggsie shrugged. "Well, I guess we just grin and bear it."

"You mean you don't *mind*—at our first big dance?" exclaimed Mary Lou, with relief.

Muggsie grinned. "Well—er—as a matter of fact—I didn't know quite how to tell you—but I'll *have* to get you home by 12 to get in under the wire myself!"

"You mean . . . ?" chorused the girls.

"Yep, just this morning, Mother and Dad said 12:30 is absolutely *it!*"

Janie had an idea. "I bet our parents aren't any different. Everybody's going to be in the same boat. Muggsie, you're on the committee—why don't you just noise it around that all the kids have to be home by midnight?"

"Will do," said Muggsie, as they reached Mary Lou's home. "So long, see you later." With a wave of his hand, he was off.

"Well, that's that," said Janie briskly "Come on, I'm dying to see your new formal!"

They hurried up the steps. "I guess it's going to be fun, after all," said Mary Lou. "Help me before everybody gets home, and I'll model the formal for you and the folks. I'd kind of like Daddy to see how it looks!"

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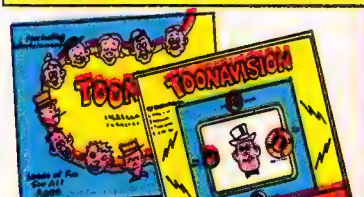

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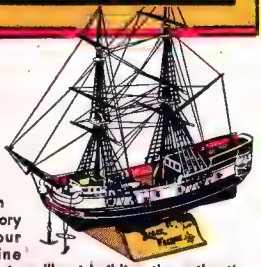

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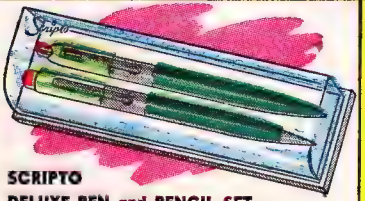

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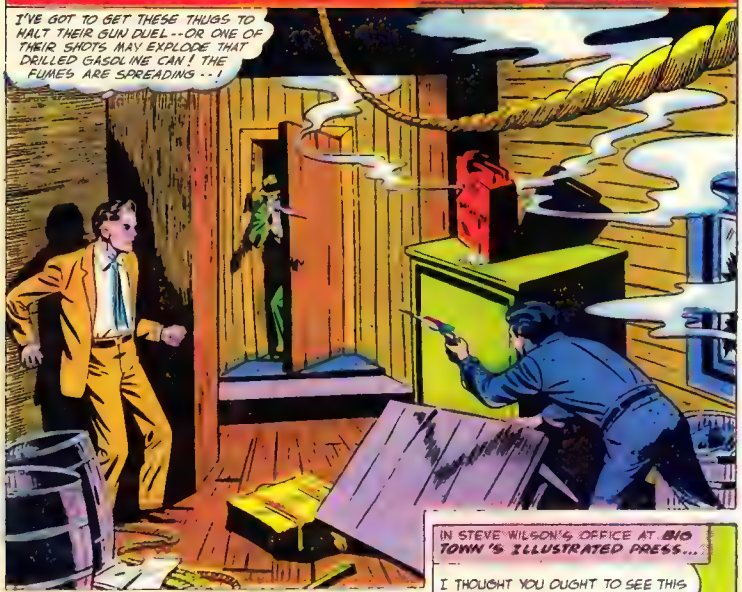
BIG TOWN


I'VE GOT TO GET THESE THUGS TO HALT THEIR GUN DUEL--OR ONE OF THEIR SHOTS MAY EXPLODE THAT DRILLED GASOLINE CAN! THE FUMES ARE SPREADING--!

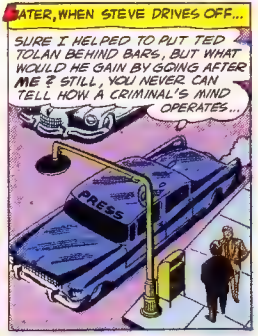
A STATE-WIDE SEARCH FOR AN ESCAPED CONVICT FAILS TO UNCOVER HIS HIDING PLACE--UNTIL STEVE WILSON GOES FOR A RIDE IN HIS CAR--AND SPOTS THE CONVICT IN BACK, POINTING A GUN AT HIM! ORDERED TO DRIVE HIM TO FREEDOM, STEVE SECRETLY RESOLVES TO STEER HIM--SOMEHOW--INTO THE HANDS OF THE POLICE!

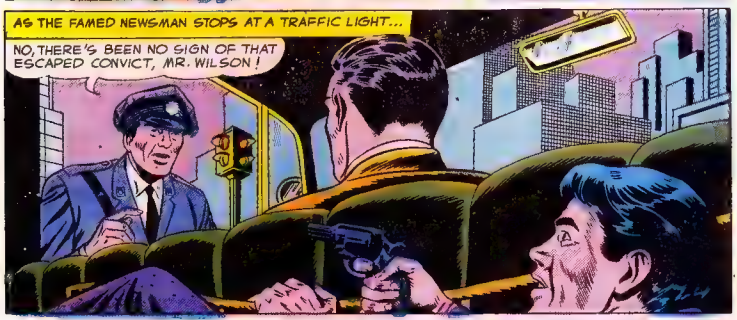
CONVICT at LARGE!

IN STEVE WILSON'S OFFICE AT BIG TOWN'S ILLUSTRATED PRESS...
I THOUGHT YOU OUGHT TO SEE THIS BULLETIN, STEVE! TED TOLAN HAS BROKEN JAIL--JUST ONE WEEK AFTER YOU HELPED PUT HIM THERE!

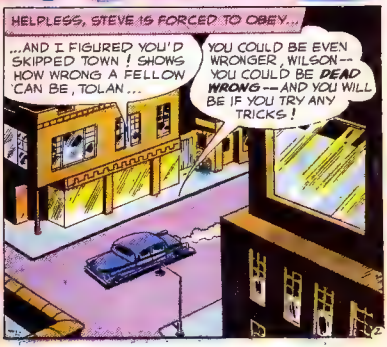
STEVE, YOU COULD ASK THE POLICE FOR SPECIAL PROTECTION UNTIL DOLAN IS CAUGHT!
CHARLIE, IF EVERY NEWSMAN WHO WAS EVER IN DANGER--

...ASKED FOR A POLICE BODYGUARD, THERE'D HARDLY BE ENOUGH PATROLMEN LEFT TO GUARD THE CITY! BUT STOP WORRYING--IT'S MY GUESS THAT TOLAN IS MILES AWAY FROM BIG TOWN BY NOW!

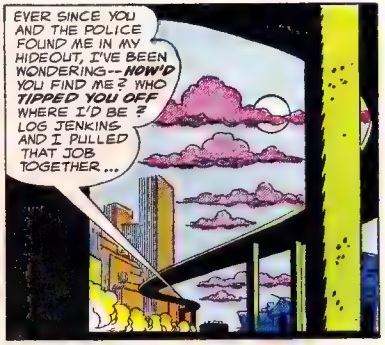

LATER, WHEN STEVE DRIVES OFF...
SURE I HELPED TO PUT TED TOLAN BEHIND BARS, BUT WHAT WOULD HE GAIN BY GOING AFTER ME? STILL, YOU NEVER CAN TELL HOW A CRIMINAL'S MIND OPERATES...
PRESS

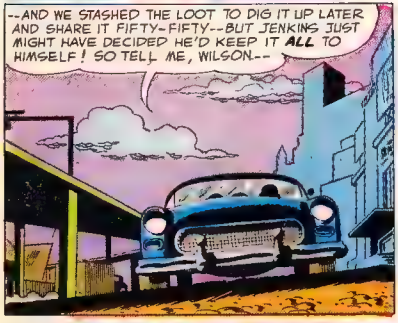

AS THE FAMED NEWSMAN STOPS AT A TRAFFIC LIGHT...
NO, THERE'S BEEN NO SIGN OF THAT ESCAPED CONVICT, MR. WILSON!

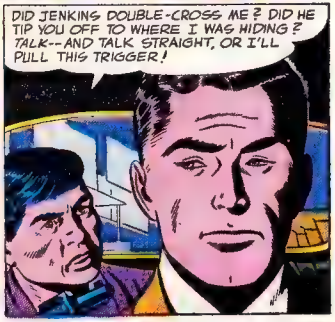
THEN, ON A LONELY STREET...
TURN LEFT HERE, WILSON!
TOLAN--IN BACK OF MY CAR!

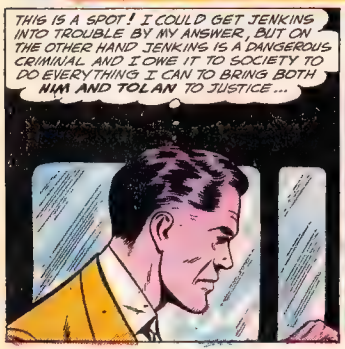

HELPLESS, STEVE IS FORCED TO OBEY...
...AND I FIGURED YOU'D SKIPPED TOWN! SHOWS HOW WRONG A FELLOW CAN BE, TOLAN...
YOU COULD BE EVEN WRONGER, WILSON--YOU COULD BE DEAD WRONG--AND YOU WILL BE IF YOU TRY ANY TRICKS!

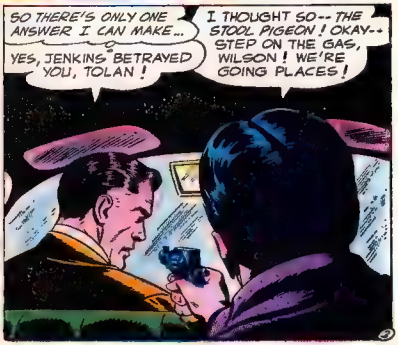
AS THE VETERAN NEWSHAWK IS DIRECTED INTO A DESERTED SECTION OF TOWN...
WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND, TOLAN? ARE YOU GOING TO USE THAT REVOLVER?
THAT ALL DEPENDS WILSON--ON YOU! LISTEN!


EVER SINCE YOU AND THE POLICE FOUND ME IN MY HIDEOUT, I'VE BEEN WONDERING--HOW'D YOU FIND ME? WHO TIPPED YOU OFF WHERE I'D BE? LOG JENKINS AND I PULLED THAT JOB TOGETHER...


--AND WE STASHED THE LOOT TO DIG IT UP LATER AND SHARE IT FIFTY-FIFTY--BUT JENKINS JUST MIGHT HAVE DECIDED HE'D KEEP IT ALL TO HIMSELF! SO TELL ME, WILSON--

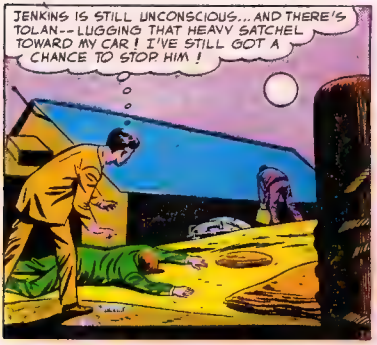

DID JENKINS DOUBLE-CROSS ME? DID HE TIP YOU OFF TO WHERE I WAS HIDING? TALK--AND TALK STRAIGHT, OR I'LL PULL THIS TRIGGER!


THIS IS A SPOT! I COULD GET JENKINS INTO TROUBLE BY MY ANSWER, BUT ON THE OTHER HAND JENKINS IS A DANGEROUS CRIMINAL AND I OWE IT TO SOCIETY TO DO EVERYTHING I CAN TO BRING BOTH HIM AND TOLAN TO JUSTICE...

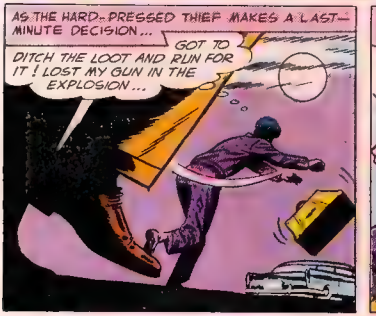

SO THERE'S ONLY ONE ANSWER I CAN MAKE...
YES, JENKINS BETRAYED YOU, TOLAN!
I THOUGHT SO--THE STOOL PIGEON! OKAY--STEP ON THE GAS, WILSON! WE'RE GOING PLACES!

SOON, DOWN A STEEP, NARROW STREET LEADING TO THE WATER-FRONT...
WHY'S HE TAKING ME HERE?
AT TOLAN'S COMMAND, STEVE STOPS THE CAR...
OUT, WILSON-- AND WALK!
THIS OLD, EMPTY HOUSE-BOAT? IS THIS WHERE JENKINS HAS BEEN HIDING OUT?
THEN, AS THE ESCAPED CONVICT LIFTS UP SOME LOOSE PLANKS ON THE HOUSEBOAT...
THE LOOT! SO THAT'S WHAT HE CAME HERE FOR!
GUESS JENKINS FIGURED IT WAS SAFE ENOUGH HERE-- WITH ME IN THE PEN, HUH, WILSON?
HE MUST'VE FIGURED HE HAD PLENTY OF TIME TO COLLECT IT WHEN THE HEAT ON HIM DIED DOWN! BUT I'VE OUTSMARTED HIM! I PROBABLY JUST GOT HERE IN TIME...
THE NEXT MOMENT, AS ANOTHER GUNMAN ENTERS THE CABIN...
JENKINS!
HUH?
DROP THAT GUN, TOLAN-- YOU DOUBLE-CROSSER!
YOU CALLIN' ME A DOUBLE-CROSSER!?
SOON AS I HEARD YOU BROKE JAIL, I SUSPECTED YOU MIGHT TRY TO GRAB ALL OF THE LOOT FOR YOURSELF! NOW I SEE I WAS RIGHT!

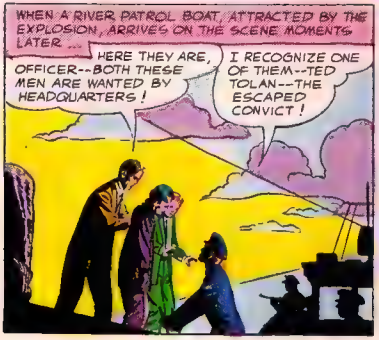
SIMULTANEOUSLY, THE TWO OPEN FIRE...
CAUGHT BETWEEN TWO FIRES!
BAM!!
KRAK!
A BULLET HAS SPRUNG A LEAK IN THAT GASOLINE CAN AGAINST THAT WALL! FUMES SPREADING ABOUT--I'VE GOT TO GET THESE TWO TO STOP FIRING--BEFORE THEY CAUSE AN EXPLOSION!
BUT THE NEXT MOMENT, BEFORE THE ACE NEWSMAN CAN WARN THE GUN-DUELERS...
BOOM!!
KRAK!
A GUN SPARK SETS OFF AN EXPLOSION..
THROWN TO THE FLOOR, THE AGILE NEWSMAN ROLLS TO AVOID INJURY...
I TRIED TO STOP THEM--BUT I HAD NO CHANCE! IT KNOCKED OUT JENKINS...
WHEN STEVE REGAINS HIS FOOTING...
THERE GOES TOLAN WITH THE LOOT--MAKING HIS GETAWAY! BUT THAT EXPLOSION LOOSENED THE SEAMS IN THIS OLD TUB--THE WATER'S POURING IN! I'VE GOT TO TRY TO GET JENKINS OUT OF HERE..
AS THE ANCIENT HOUSE-BOAT GOES DOWN...
WHEW!! I GOT US BOTH OFF THAT OLD HULK JUST IN TIME...


JENKINS IS STILL UNCONSCIOUS... AND THERE'S TOLAN--LUGGING THAT HEAVY SATCHEL TOWARD MY CAR! I'VE STILL GOT A CHANCE TO STOP HIM!

COULDN'T BEAR TO LEAVE ANY OF THAT HEAVY LOOT BEHIND, EH, TOLAN?
WILSON--COMING AT ME!


AS THE HARD-PRESSED THIEF MAKES A LAST-MINUTE DECISION...
GOT TO DITCH THE LOOT AND RUN FOR IT! LOST MY GUN IN THE EXPLOSION...

BUT THE FASTER-RUNNING NEWSMAN OVER-TAKES THE CONVICT AND...
YOUR GREED BETRAYED YOU, TOLAN! YOU MIGHT HAVE GOT AWAY IF YOU LEFT THE LOOT BEHIND--BUT YOU COULDN'T BEAR TO DO THAT!

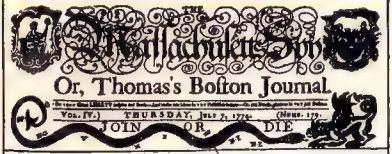

WHEN A RIVER PATROL BOAT, ATTRACTED BY THE EXPLOSION, ARRIVES ON THE SCENE MOMENTS LATER...
HERE THEY ARE, OFFICER--BOTH THESE MEN ARE WANTED BY HEADQUARTERS!
I RECOGNIZE ONE OF THEM--TED TOLAN--THE ESCAPED CONVICT!

SHORTLY AFTER THE DUO HAS BEEN TAKEN INTO CUSTODY...
ONE MORE THING BEFORE I LEAVE TO WRITE UP THIS STORY, TOLAN--NO ONE DOUBLE-CROSSED YOU! IT WAS JUST GOOD POLICE WORK THAT CAUGHT UP WITH YOU--AND IT WILL EVERY TIME YOU AND YOUR PAL BREAK THE LAW!
Jim Ennis

ODD NEWS ITEMS!

IN 1833, THE NEW YORK **SUN** INITIATED THE NOVEL IDEA OF BOOSTING ITS CIRCULATION BY HIRING NEWSBOYS TO HAWK THE PAPER ON THE STREET. PREVIOUS TO THIS TIME, NEWSPAPERS WERE DELIVERED TO SUBSCRIBERS BY MAIL OR BY CARRIERS EMPLOYED BY THE PAPER...

ONE OF THE MOST EFFECTIVE COLONIAL NEWSPAPERS CAMPAIGNING FOR A BREAK WITH ENGLAND WAS **THE MASSACHUSETTS SPY,** WHICH REGULARLY FEATURED UNDER ITS TITLE A PAGE-WIDE CARTOON CONSISTING OF A DRAGON (*REPRESENTING ENGLAND*) AND BENJAMIN FRANKLIN'S FAMOUS "JOIN OR DIE" SNAKE (*REPRESENTING THE AMERICAN COLONIES*)...



BECAUSE OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S BITTER ENMITY, EDITOR ISAIAH THOMAS WAS FORCED TO DISCONTINUE PUBLICATION--JUST A FEW DAYS BEFORE THE BATTLE OF LEXINGTON BROKE OUT!

DURING THE EARLY YEARS OF THE 19TH CENTURY, A NUMBER OF DAILY NEWSPAPERS ISSUED A **WEEKLY** EDITION, MADE UP FROM TYPE THAT HAD BEEN USED IN THE **DAILY** ISSUES, CIRCULATED TO SUBSCRIBERS ALL OVER THE COUNTRY. THIS WEEKLY WAS GENERALLY THE ONLY SOURCE OF NEWS FOR OUTLYING SETTLEMENTS...

THE NEW YORK **POST'S** WEEKLY EDITION HAD A GREATER **NATIONAL** CIRCULATION THAN ANY OF ITS LOCAL DAILY EDITIONS!

THE PHENOMENAL SUCCESS OF THE FIRST PENNY PAPERS IN NEW YORK CITY (*THERE WERE ELEVEN ISSUED BETWEEN 1833 AND 1835*) LED TO THE PUBLICATION OF THE FIRST PENNY PAPER SLANTED FOR FEMININE READERSHIP. EDITED BY ANN ODDBODY, IT WAS APPROPRIATELY NAMED -- ***THE WOMAN***...

I'LL START THE FIRST EDITORIAL THIS WAY: "THERE IS A PAPER 'MAN' PUBLISHED--WHY SHALL NOT A PAPER 'WOMAN' BE. ALSO SEEN DAILY IN THE CITY OF GOTHAM?"
ANN ODDBODY

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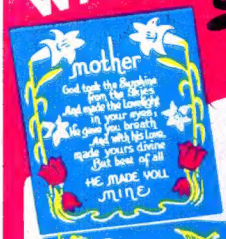

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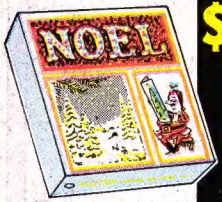

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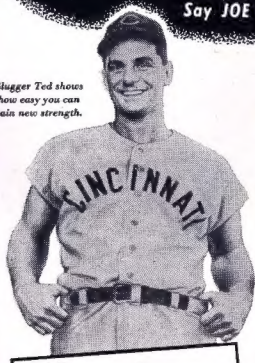
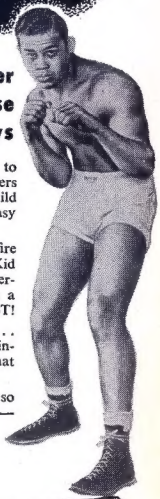
Say JOE LOUIS and TED KLUSZEWSKI



Slugger Ted shows how easy you can gain new strength.



Let Champions give you power and confidence . . . they promise solid new muscles in 10 days

I wish you could come with Ted and me to Lou Stillman's famous training headquarters . . . see for yourself how the Champions build their bodies and keep physically fit. It's easy to do and lots of fun!

Are you fat and flabby? Watch Ted show his surefire method to remove fat. Tired and nervous? See Kid Gavilan's tested plan to liven you up. Want powerful shoulders? Football star Doak Walker has a proven body builder that gives you results . . . FAST!

If you want to be a star athlete or look like one . . . let these great Stars and me help you. Just 15 minutes a day makes you a real man — no matter what your size. Find out by mailing the coupon.

I'll send you my "Fight Secrets" for just 10c — so that you'll be sure to write me. Get off the bench — into the game. Send me the coupon right now!

Sincerely,

Joe Louis

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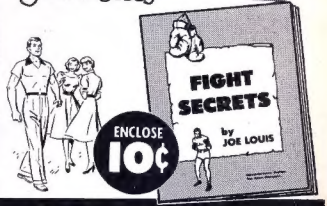

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